



Using Cluster Detection and Response to Prevent the Spread of HIV in Western Virginia, 2021

Christina Martone, MPH Jennifer Johnson, BS



CDR uses HIV genotypes to identify groups of genetically related HIV infections, called clusters, which guides focused prevention and treatment efforts.



Genotypes generated through drug resistance testing

Analyze sequences to identify clusters



Genotypes generated through drug resistance testing

Analyze sequences to identify clusters



Genotypes generated through drug resistance testing

Analyze sequences to identify clusters



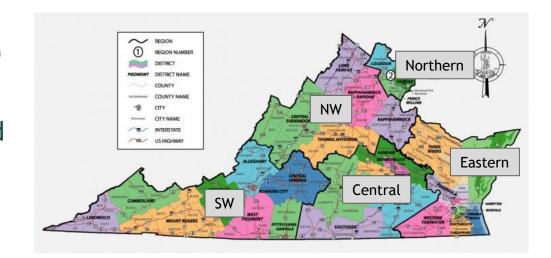
Genotypes generated through drug resistance testing

Analyze sequences to identify clusters



# Priority Cluster in Virginia's Western Region

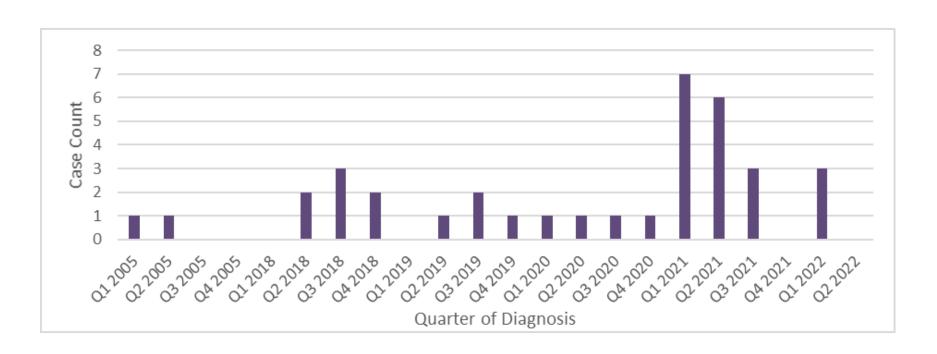
- Cluster first detected in 2020
  - 8 people linked to cluster
  - In care, virally suppressed



- Growth in 2021
  - Rapid growth in a short period of time
  - 36 people with HIV connected to cluster
  - 35 partners HIV- or status unknown



### Epi-curve of VA residents in Western VA Cluster





### **Demographics**

#### Number of Cases per Health District



- Wide age range
- White males with an MSM risk



#### Local Level:

### Virginia's Western Region



- Established cluster response team in May 2021
  - 1 Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) would conduct outreach to all individuals in the cluster
    - Interviews/re-interviews
    - Linkages/re-linkages to care
    - Testing/re-testing
    - PrEP referrals



### Motivational Interviewing

Good listening

Giving information and advice

- Establish a rapport with individuals
- Create a trusting atmosphere to ask sensitive questions



Result of DIS Engagement	Count
First time interview conducted	2
Re-interview conducted	9
New partners identified	11
Persons linked to care	0
Persons living out of state	4
HIV testing performed	14
PrEP referral given	4



## Questions?

#### Christina Martone, MPH

CDR Program Coordinator
Division of Disease Prevention
christina.martone@vdh.virginia.gov
804-356-3924

#### Jennifer Johnson, BS

Disease Intervention Specialist
New River Health District
jennifer.montemurro@vdh.virginia.gov
540-585-3319

